

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A Gram-negative bacterium~~ An *Agrobacterium* comprising an inducible regulatory sequence operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence ~~encoding a~~ encoding levansucrase which are contained within the genome of said ~~Gram-negative bacterium~~ *Agrobacterium*.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A Gram-negative bacterium~~ An *Agrobacterium* comprising a recombinant nucleotide sequence containing an inducible regulatory sequence other than *sacR* operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence ~~encoding a~~ encoding levansucrase.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Agrobacterium* of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence ~~encoding a~~ encoding levansucrase is a *sacB* open reading frame.
4. (CANCELED)
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Argobacterium* of claim 3, wherein said bacterium is *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Argobacterium* of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon (SEQ. ID. NO. 1).
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Agrobacterium* of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *Pi 2(noc)* promoter (SEQ. ID. NO. 2) and *noc 1* operon (SEQ. ID. NO. 2).
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Agrobacterium* of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *P_{BAD}* promoter (SEQ. ID. NO. 5) and *araC* cis element (SEQ. ID. NO. 4).
- 9.-33. (CANCELED)
34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Agrobacterium* of claim 1, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the *traCDG*

promoter (SEQ. ID. NO. 7) and the occ promoter (SEQ. ID. NO. 8).

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The Gram-negative bacterium~~ The *Agrobacterium*
of claim 3, wherein the nucleotide sequence ~~encoding a~~ encoding levansucrase
contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.

36.-43 (CANCELED)